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For Immediate Release
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**COUNTY SUPERVISOR RICE REACTS TO PUBLIC POLICY FORUM'S
REPORT ON MILWAUKEE COUNTY'S MENTAL HEALTH OPERATIONS**

October 6, 2010 - Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Joseph Rice today credited the Public Policy Forum's [Report](#) containing a detailed analysis of Milwaukee County's mental health delivery system as a road map for sensible policy-making. The report calls for significant changes in service delivery, including moving away from single-site institutional care and expanding community-based outpatient treatment facilities.

"The Forum has done the county a service through its thorough investigation and clear-cut recommendations for improving Milwaukee County's mental health services," said Rice. "These recommendations coincide with the proposals I have made in response to efforts by some on the County Board to construct a new mental health hospital," Rice added.

At the September 22, 2010 Health and Human Needs Committee meeting, Rice introduced an amendment to:

- Analyze current demands, capacity and utilization of inpatient hospital psychiatric beds, hospitalization programs, outpatient services, supportive housing, and crisis services;
- Examine alternative delivery methods to meet the acute mental health needs of children, adolescents, and adults including community-based mental health services that can impact the utilization of inpatient psychiatric capacity;
- Analyze funding sources to determine the impact of funding on the availability, intensity and quality of care.

"The report provides needed data that should be relied upon by policy-makers prior to any decisions on spending tax dollars to construct a new hospital. Such critical analysis should drive the process rather than precipitous action in pursuit of short-term political gains," Rice concluded.

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